

WEATHER BUREAU ADOPTS NEW PLAN

Will Conduct Investigation Into
Thermal Conditions for
Fruit-Growing.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Raleigh, N. C., August 26.—Speaking of the announcement from Washington that North Carolina is to have the first investigation by the United States Weather Bureau into thermal conditions for fruit growing, a departure secured through the efforts of State Horticulturalist W. H. Hutt, and Congressman R. L. Doughton, Mr. Hutt said today that it is a fitting, owing to the leading position which the North Carolina fruit last year at the great exhibit at the National Horticultural Congress, that she should be the first State selected by the national government for inaugurating these investigations. He says there will undoubtedly be of great advantage to the fruit growing interests of the whole country. He declares that the results obtained in North Carolina through these observations will be a criterion for fruit growers throughout the whole of the United States and Canada.

To get under way these observations with thermometers and thermographs of delicate and very expensive character, the Weather Bureau will provide equipment for installation at the State Test Farm at Blantyre, in the orchards of Chas. A. Webb, Asheville, the orchard of W. T. Lindsay, Tryon; orchards of Bowling T. Hall, Waynesville; the orchards of Mrs. Aaron H. Cone, Blowing Rock, and of J. B. Sparger, Mount Airy, these elevations being from one to 4,000 feet. The instruments and other equipment will cost \$2,000, and will be under the supervision of District Weather Observer L. A. Denison, of this State.

Views and Near Views

(Continued From First Page.)

running stream, watched, but did not help, the horny-winded son of toil feed the horses at the bog, and the good housewife milk the cows, and followed the boys to the watermelon patch to thump and pluck a few of the choicest her red melons while the dew still lingered upon them; and this, too, is resting after breakfast I smoke and loaf about for a while, and then go with the backwoodsman to look at his crops. Whenever you go to the country you must look at and comment upon all the crops you run upon in the presence of the owner. It does not matter if you don't know a butterbean bush from a pumpkin stalk, you must look at the crops and express an opinion. It may be a mutton-head opinion, but you must express it anyhow. In this awful drought year there is no comfort to me in viewing the crops or expressing an opinion about them, but it is to be observed that somehow a drought-afflicted farmer enjoys your mournful sympathy and your heart-rending condolences, and the more mournful and heart-rending you make them, the more he enjoys them. And this is also true.

Having expressed my mutton-head opinions of the standing crops for one day, and at the same time taken necessary exercise, the balance of the morning is spent in loiter fashion, loitering under the shade of the trees, smoking, snoozing a little, reading a little of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," Broadus's Sermons, Luther's "Reformation," Horace Greeley's "Stock Raising Manual," Thomas Burton's Speeches and Debates, and such other up-to-date literature as I find in the backwoods, and promptly at noon I have the dinner horn and I proceed to shovel a cargo of snaps, black-eyed peas, chicken pie etc., as outlined above. Of course, after this a nap must come. A blanket or sheepskin on the ground under the shade of the trees with a buggy cushion for a pillow, a better favor for my kind of a vacation than any downy couch that ever found room in the palace of King, prince or potentate. And that is resting.

Supper comes early, before the sun goes down. It is followed with pipes and dreamy chat with members of the household, and before it is hardly dark everybody in the house and I, out in "the office" with the boys, are snoring and sleeping that sweet sleep which innocence and virtue only know, and where so well as in the backwoods while on vacation; away off here where the katydids sing at night and the wickers and the mocking birds and the woodpeckers are tuned up before the sun rises and where the ducks quack and the chicken coo and crow even sooner than the songbirds start up with

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"KING CORN" SPECIAL.
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|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. | 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. | 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. | 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. | 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. | 1st. 2d. 3d. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. |
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Special: Peerless Pump, donated to winner by Snyder Pump and Well Company.
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A Good Garden, and How It Is Cultivated

J. M. BELL, Shirley, Va.

The Industrial Section of The Times-Dispatch is giving its readers some mighty good suggestions regarding better methods on farming in our old Commonwealth, and the writer, who is a constant reader of our leading Virginia paper, thought that a short article on a real good Virginia garden might be of interest. The garden in question is one that has been worked for the past twenty years on a simple and at the same time practical plan. The size of the garden is seven-eighths of an acre. It is in the form of a square, is fenced on three sides with woven wire, on the fourth side a high river bank supplies the place of a fence. A broad gravel path runs through the center, that is, from a gate opening on the east side and continuing to a summer house on the river bank. There is another wide gravel path, that, starting at the upper end on the east side, runs down to and joins the center path. Along this short walkway there are some very pretty flowers, roses and other sorts, then a cucumber vine, and then several varieties, all in bearing. Farther on down are some fig bushes. These, too, are in bearing. On the north side of the garden, and starting about thirty feet from the river bank, are cultivated raspberries and blackberries, then some Concord grapes, then some Delaware grape vines. The vegetables raised in this garden each season are as follows, and I might say right here that they are raised in abundance: Asparagus, beets, cabbage, garden corn, cucumbers, cantaloupes, cyprians, or squash; okra, onions, both for table use and for pickling purposes; a few peppers, Irish potatoes, parsnips, kale, beans, black eye peas, egg plant and salafy, spinach, celery, tomatoes, snail

lettuce. There is also a strawberry patch. As before stated, the method of working and cultivating this garden is simple and practical. Each winter, a heavy application of stable manure (well rotted) is plowed under deeply. (Well rotted in the spring as weather then allows.) The soil is then in good condition. The land is worked over with a disc and smoothing harrow, then vegetables are sown or planted, as the season advances. Little, or no commercial fertilizer ever has been used, as the stable manure seems to fill the bill. The rows are laid off far enough apart to allow the cultivating of the vegetables with a one-horse garden cultivator, that is, about two feet apart. This plan of doing most of the work with a horse greatly lessens the expense, and saves hoe work, and the cultivator keeps the soil in fine shape. Of course, such vegetables as cucumbers, squash and tomatoes, are planted in hills at the regular distance. The entire working of this garden, with the exception of the following, is done by the owner, who is "Uncle Henry," who for the past ten years has had charge of it. This old colored man, now nearing the three score and ten mark, not only attends most faithfully to this very profitable plot of ground, but does quite a lot of other work besides.

The owner of this garden estimates that \$75 a year will pay all expenses attached to the working of it. This includes the purchase of all seeds, in fact, every item of expense. For the sum above mentioned, he gets a bountiful supply of vegetables throughout the year, and in addition, a nice lot of fruit of various sorts, and last, but not least by any means, beautiful flowers in season.

Besides the family, the house servant and often the farm hands are supplied with vegetables from this little plot of land. The exhibits in, may find a hint well worth their consideration.

Mighty Figures on Cotton.
I read in a stray paper that found its way to the backwoods that President Taft vetoed the bill passed by Congress rearranging the cotton and cotton bale schedules of the tariff laws. I took but a languid interest in the subject until I ran upon the paragraph of figures given by Mr. Taft as follows:

"Speaking of the cotton industry, the President said the capital invested in 1909 amounted to \$821,000,000; the value of the product, \$229,000,000; the number of wage-earners to 373,000, making, with dependents, a total of at least 1,200,000 persons affected. With annual wages of \$145,000,000."

I know but little of the merits of the vetoed bill or the President's veto, and would hate to spoil a vacation hour by entering into a study or discussion of the same, but those big figures attracted my attention. I have seen them and perhaps used them before, but they are worth repetition in any form. Great is cotton, and it is a now being grown in Virginia. I hope none of it will be grown next year. More of that which is grown in Virginia and the South should be manufactured in Virginia. And I want to see a cotton seed oil mill in Virginia. At Suffolk or Farmville or Emporia or even in Richmond. I am sure an oil mill would pay. This is just a hint—wise or otherwise.

Modern Country Picnics.
Picnics are the order of the day at this season. Country picnics are undergoing a change in character in Virginia. They used to be simply frolics, with dancing and other frivolities as leading features on both sides of the big dinner. Lately the country picnics in some parts of Virginia are combination frolics, big dinners, and farmers' institutes. I have heard of one of these combination affairs in Halifax county, when and where there was all manner of wholesome fun and frolic and courting and flirting and the inevitable big dinner and sandwiched in with it were practical addresses on better farming by Governor Mann and T. O. Sandy, and practical demonstration of tomato and fruit canning by Miss Agnew and Miss Terry, official demonstrators for the benefit of the young women. All the farmers and their wives and sons and daughters had all the picnic in their hands and a whole lot of valuable instruction thrown in. These kinds of picnics ought to be encouraged until they are held in every district of every county in the State.

Just a Word Political.
Out here in the backwoods the folks tell me that the political excitement over the United States senatorial campaign and the coming primary election is confined to the cities and the towns, the country people taking but a languid interest, if any at all, in the senatorial rumpus. If there were not in many counties primaries on the same

date to select candidates for local offices there would be comparatively little voting on the 7th of September next, so the backwoodsman tell me. The fact is, I believe, that those hard-headed and hard-sinned country folks in Virginia are largely opposed to a senatorial primary anyhow, or any other method of selecting United States Senators by a direct vote of the people. They say Thomas Jefferson and the other old codgers of his exciting times did mighty well in framing a Constitution, so well, indeed, and the Constitution has up to now worked so well, the backwoods folks, or at least a majority of them, are of the opinion that Jefferson and his collaborators were divinely inspired, and because of this conviction they are disposed to let the Constitution remain as it is, especially in the matter of the election of United States Senators. That is the way I have been hearing some folks talk while taking my vacation in the backwoods.

REEL RACES END FIREMEN'S MEET

First Prizes in Contests Go to
Harrisonburg and Shenandoah.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Newport News, Va., August 26.—Harrisonburg and Shenandoah were the winners in the reel contests, which marked the close yesterday of the 25th annual convention of the Virginia State Firemen's Association, the former capturing the prize in the State reel and the latter winning first in the free-for-all. Owing to several mishaps, all six of the competing teams made very slow time. Staunton won second prize in the State reel and Woodstock got second place in the free-for-all.

The judges yesterday announced the awards of the prizes in the parade. Phoebe getting the first prize for the largest company in the parade. The prize for the best band went to the Fort Monroe band.

MORE THAN ONE AERIE

Fraternal Order of Eagles Will Allow
Two or More in Some Cities.
San Francisco, August 25.—Delegates to the Grand Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, held two sessions yesterday and cleared up the business of the 51st annual convention. Special reports of committees constituted the greater part of the day's business. One decision of the Grand Aerie which is considered of great importance is that permitting the organization of more than one aerie in cities of 25,000 inhabitants or more, without the consent of the aerie at present in existence. It was also decided that an aerie may be organized in a city of 2,500 or more inhabitants providing the grand worthy president decides that the dispensation should be granted and that the city or town is able to support such an aerie at present. San Francisco is the only city having more than one aerie.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL OF BOYS POSTPONED

Charged With Horse-Stealing, One
Youth Either Is Insane or Is
Shunning Madness.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Lynchburg, Va., August 25.—Guy Vaddell, who is held in jail here, together with two other youths, on the charge of horse-stealing, the preliminary trial of the case being postponed until the city jail or he is shunning insanity. When locked up he denuded himself of his clothing, and his ravings are such that the preliminary trial, that was to take place yesterday morning, had to be postponed. The youths were taken from a local livery, and several hours later were trying to sell the outfit for \$20.

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CROP CONDITIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Raleigh, N. C., August 26.—Captain T. B. Parker, director of the Farmers' Institute work, carried on by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, has closed up this week a series of 150 institutes, held during the past two months in practically every section and almost every county in the State. He and his institute workers have had special opportunity to observe the crop conditions. Captain Parker estimates that there will be at least an average crop of cotton, but that the prospect is for a less than normal yield of corn, this being due to drought conditions in some sections. He says that in the counties beyond the mountains, the yield of corn will be the biggest on record, but that this side of the mountains, coming eastward, especially between Morganton and Salisbury, a stretch of seventy-five miles, the yield is very severe. He doubts if the yield of cotton or corn in this territory will be more than 25 per cent. He found cotton already opening as far west as Hickory. The eastern and the middle Piedmont counties have much more favorable crop prospects, a number of the localities in these sections having really "bumper crops" assured.

SWEET CHALYBEATE SPRINGS

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Sweet Chalybeate, Va., August 26.—The combination of delightful weather and charming people will make this a remarkable summer, long to be remembered by those fortunate enough to have selected the Sweet Chalybeate for their vacation. Thursday night the summer house was transformed into a bazaar of beauty with floral decorations and Japanese lanterns, when Miss Ethel Roudar entertained forty-five of the young set at a watermelon feast after the dance.

Mrs. William Boykin, of Baltimore, on Friday took a large party to the White for the day.

The German on Friday evening was a great success, James Hume, of Portsmouth, gracefully leading the twenty-six couples through the figures. The decorations, though unusual, were most effective, corn stalks with ears and tassels, and asparagus ferns were abundantly used. The supper was served. The chaperones were: Mesdames John Ball, Florida M. Truxton, Robert Baldwin, Paul Howard, C. H. Hix, J. Y. Leigh, Ash. Godwin, M. A. Savage, of Norfolk; George Biddood, Wingfield Murphy, of Richmond; Ashburn, of Virginia Beach; Weems and Street, of Texas.

A unique game of baseball was played on the lawn Saturday morning, the young women winning easily with sixteen runs, while the men, who wore the latest skirts, had only eight to their credit.

In the afternoon a combination party was given in the men's pool. Paul Howard chaperoning the twenty-five young people.

Sunday evening Bishop Penick delivered an instructive and interesting lecture in the ballroom. The subject was "The Tendencies of the World To-Day."

A large bridge was given Monday morning by Mrs. Murphy, of Richmond. Prizes were given.

The children enjoyed a "500" and Casino party in the afternoon. The prizes were boxes of candy.

After the dance Monday evening, Mrs. and Miss Anderson, of Alexandria, entertained the young set at a chafing dish party.

A large party of the young people spent Tuesday at the White, Mrs. Paul Howard chaperoning.

Miss Mary Wilcox was hostess at a delightful porch party Tuesday evening after the dance.

Wednesday was a busy day for all at the Sweet Chalybeate with two bridge parties on the lawn and two hay rides. In the morning Mrs. Ashby (Godwin), Mrs. Ashburn, of Norfolk, entertained a bridge. The first prize, a crystal and silver vase, was awarded Mrs. E. A. Grant, of Cleveland; the second, a silver belt pin, was won by Miss Mary Leigh, of Norfolk; the third, a center pin case, was given Miss Powers, of Richmond; the consolation, a file, Miss Helen Phillips.

The afternoon hostesses were: Mrs. Stockton Cooke, of Alabama; Mrs. Rose Cooke, of Norfolk. The first prize, a lace center piece, went to Mrs. Howard Shields, of Norfolk; the consolation, an Irish crochet jacket, to Mrs. Bloomberg, of Richmond; the second prize, a center pin case, was given Mrs. Elton, of Georgia.

In the morning Miss Caroline Catlin gave a hay ride to Beaver Dam Falls. In the afternoon twenty little folks were the guests of Miss Mary McLe-more, of Franklin. They also went to Beaver Dam where a delightful supper was served.

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LAW TO PROTECT FRUIT GROWERS

(Continued From First Page.)

of dumping ground for European refuse nursery and ornamental stock. This does not often apply to the importations of the larger and reputable nurseries, but it does apply to the poorly-packed miscellaneous ornamental and other stock imported by department stores of large cities or that sent to this country to be sold under the hammer by auctioneers for whatever prices may be obtained.

The immediate danger which led to the recent effort to secure legislation was the discovery in 1905 of the abundant importation and wide distribution into the United States of nursery stock infested with brown-tail moth nests and occasional egg masses of the gypsy moth. During the years 1905 to 1910 such infested stock was carried into twenty-two States, covering the country from the Atlantic seaboard to the Rocky Mountains. During the first of these years no less than 7,000 winter nests of the brown-tail moth, containing approximately 3,000,000 eggs were found in shipments into New York State alone—seed material enough to infest the whole United States within a few years. During the second of these years, 617 of these nests were found in nursery stock shipped into the State of Ohio.

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tall moths in New England shows that these insects may be present for several years without being noticed, slowly gain headway, and then suddenly develop their full power of destructiveness.

It is scarcely necessary to comment on the danger to the whole country from the careless introduction and wide distribution of these two orchard and forest pests. In a limited district in New England more than a million dollars a year has been spent for a long period in a mere effort to control these two insects, and the general government is now appropriating \$300,000 annually to endeavor to clear them from the border of main highways and thus check their spread.

The expenditures do not take into account the actual damage done, but they do serve as a measure of the danger to the whole country from the recent distribution of these two insects on imported nursery stock.

New plant diseases, against the entrance of which there is at present no bar, may even more seriously jeopardize the farm, orchard, and forest products of this country. Imported potatoes from Newfoundland are now bringing in the potato wart disease, which wherever it has been introduced, has a stop to potato culture. The importation of white-pine seedlings is now bringing in the European white-pine blister rust, which, if established and disseminated, will destroy much of the value of our white-pine forests. Absolute quarantine against these two plant diseases is the only means of keeping them out. The chestnut disease, now practically shown to have been introduced on trees imported from Japan, illustrates what may quickly happen from such unchecked introductions.

More than half of the important insect enemies and plant diseases now established in this country have been brought in on imported nursery stock, and new insect enemies and new diseases are being thus introduced every year. Very different insect pests, new to this country, some of them very formidable in the Old World have been introduced in the inspection of the imported material by this department this year, and this does not include the introduction of brown-tail moth nests and other European pests with imported seedling stock.

The insect pests and plant diseases that have come in are probably here for all time, but certainly no reasonable objection can be made to the effort to safeguard the future. The conscientious importer will be benefited, and the home producers, the dealers, and all the great fruit and forest interests will be protected by suitable inspection and quarantine legislation.

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